

Mineral Industry Surveys

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BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2010

Imports of crude and dried bauxite in the second quarter of 2010 were 1.98 million metric tons (Mt), slightly higher than those in the first quarter of 2010 but 42% higher than those in the second quarter of 2009. Jamaica (53%), Guinea (27%), and Brazil (20%) were the sources of crude dry bauxite imports in the second quarter of 2010.

Imports of alumina during the second quarter of 2010 were 374,000 metric tons (t), 19% lower than those in the first quarter 2010 and 14% lower than those in the second quarter of 2009. The leading sources of imported alumina during the second quarter of 2010 were Australia (24%), Suriname (20%), and Brazil (19%). Imports of alumina from Australia decreased by 101,000 t (53%) compared with those of the prior quarter, accounting for most of the decrease in alumina imports during the first quarter of 2010.

Exports of alumina during the second quarter of 2010 were 400,000 t, 11% lower than those in the first quarter of 2010 and 66% higher than those in the second quarter of 2009. The leading destinations of alumina exported during the second quarter of 2010 were Canada (55%) and Iceland (20%).

Update

Workers represented by the United Steelworkers union ratified a 5-year contract with Noranda Aluminum Holding Corp. (Franklin, TN). The contract covers 350 hourly workers at the 1.25-million-metric-ton-per-year alumina refinery at Gramercy, LA (Noranda Aluminum Holding Corp., 2010).

A spill of red mud took place on October 4 at an alumina refinery in Ajka, Hungary. The 400,000-metric-ton-per-year refinery owned by Magyar Aluminium Ltd. shut down production when the impoundment dam failed. The cause of the dam failure was under investigation. The flood of red mud flowing through nearby villages killed 8 people and injured more than 100 others. A projected schedule for reopening the refinery had not been announced (Gulyas, 2010).

References Cited

- Gulyas, Veronika, 2010, Hungary orders probe into toxic-sludge spill: The Wall Street Journal, October 7, p. A13.
Noranda Aluminum Holding Corp., 2010, Noranda reaches agreement with United Steelworkers union: Franklin, TN, Noranda Aluminum Holding Corp. news release, October 4, 1 p.

TABLE 1
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CRUDE AND DRIED BAUXITE¹

(Metric tons)

Country	2009	2010		
		First quarter	Second quarter	Year to date
Imports (for consumption):				
Brazil	1,410,000	375,000	388,000	763,000
Guinea	1,910,000	552,000	537,000	1,090,000
Guyana	80,400	--	--	--
Jamaica	3,200,000	1,020,000	1,060,000	2,080,000
Sierra Leone	308,000	--	--	--
Other	71,600	278	--	278
Total	6,970,000	1,940,000	1,980,000	3,930,000
Exports:				
Canada	5,830	1,440	1,270	2,700
Colombia	714	45	24	69
Germany	--	109	49	158
Mexico	461	64	89	153
Nigeria	224	--	--	--
South Africa	617	--	462	462
Other	1,560	161	155	316
Total	9,410	1,820	2,050	3,860

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CALCINED BAUXITE, BY COUNTRY¹

(Metric tons)

Country	2009		2010					
			First quarter		Second quarter		Year to date	
	Refrac-tory	Other	Refrac-tory	Other	Refrac-tory	Other	Refrac-tory	Other
Imports (for consumption):								
Australia	--	17,400	--	5,800	--	38,400	--	44,200
Brazil	114,000	45,700	45,800	52,500	41,900	3,740	87,600	56,200
China	11,800	11,500	10,500	190	5,830	672	16,400	862
Greece	74,200	--	--	--	27,200	--	27,200	--
Guyana	21,000	164,000	3,170	36,700	9,040	62,300	12,200	99,100
Other	114	778	247	155	--	945	247	1,100
Total	222,000	239,000	59,700	95,300	84,000	106,000	144,000	201,000
Exports:								
Canada	7,140	547	2,260	--	2,080	197	4,340	197
Korea, Republic of	10,800	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	1,240	549	178	--	103	4,570	281	4,570
Thailand	252	--	5	--	15	--	20	--
Other	188	34	1	--	34	391	35	391
Total	19,700	1,130	2,440	--	2,240	5,160	4,680	5,160

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF ALUMINA¹

(Metric tons, calcined equivalent)

Country	2009	2010		
		First quarter	Second quarter	Year to date
Imports (for consumption): ²				
Australia	703,000	190,000	90,000	280,000
Brazil	367,000	110,000	70,700	181,000
Jamaica	248,000	22,600	28,800	51,400
Suriname	381,000	90,500	74,400	165,000
Other	158,000	45,800	110,000	156,000
Total	1,860,000	459,000	374,000	833,000
Exports: ³				
Canada	332,000	170,000	221,000	392,000
France	125,000	30,500	418	30,900
Georgia	--	31,500	30,600	62,100
Iceland	277,000	62,600	79,400	142,000
Mexico	57,200	28,500	21,500	50,000
Netherlands	2,330	51,700	26,800	78,500
Norway	79,300	41	62	103
Ukraine	461	57,900 ^r	--	57,900
Other	73,300	15,300	19,400	34,700
Total	946,000	448,000	400,000	848,000

^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes imports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: tons in 187,000 in 2009; 45,100 tons in the first quarter of 2010; 63,600 tons in the second quarter of 2010.

³Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide reported in calcined equivalent. As shipped, aluminum hydroxide: 80,000 tons in 2009; 29,500 tons in the first quarter of 2010; 28,700 tons in the second quarter of 2010.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.